

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 AF-10 RSR-01 /167 W

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R 121306 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 5436

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: GOL POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEDAYEEN

1. SUMMARY. BASED UPON SEVERAL GOOD SOURCES, INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL SADAQA OF FOREIGN OFFICE WHO TALKED TO CHARGE ON MAY 11, PRESIDENT'S SON TONY FRANGIE AND KEY ARMY OFFICERS, WE HAVE COME UP WITH FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF WHERE NEGOTIATIONS STAND BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN. IN BRIEF, PRESIDENT HAS APPARENTLY PUT NO RPT NO PRECISE PROPOSAL TO FEDAYEEN ALTHOUGH THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF HIS IDEAS ON SUBJECT. PRECISE PROPOSAL BEING DEVELOPED GRADUALLY ALONG WITH EFFORTS GENERATE POLITICAL SUPPORT
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FOR IT. TALKS IN MIXED ARMY- FEDAYEEN COMMISSION DEAL
ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH MATTERS PERTAINING TO ENFORCEMENT
OF AGREED CEASEFIRE. END SUMMARY

2. AS SADAQA TOLD CHARGE MAY 11 (SEE SEPTTEL) AND AS WE
HAVE LEARNED FROM ARMY REPS ON JOINT GOL- FEDAYEEN COMMISSION,
THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO TALKS BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN
ON SUBSTANCE OF THEIR FUTURE RELATIONS. FEDAYEEN, OF COURSE,
HAVE VERY CLEAR IDEA OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE' S THINKING (WHICH
WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING FOR SOME TIME). STARTING WITH HIS
APRIL 17 TALK WITH ARAFAT (BEIRUT 4545) CONTINUING THROUGH
HIS TALKS WITH VARIOUS ARAB ENVOYS, AND IN HIS PRESENT
MEETINGS WITH LEBANESE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS,
FRANGIE' S IDEAS HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY THOSE REFLECTED IN
AL HAWADETH ARTICLE REPORTED OUR 5380. HOWEVER, AS ALSO
REPORTED BY SADAQA, GOL HASSOT FORMULATED OR EVEN BEGUN TO

QUERY AND FORMULATE PRECISE PROPOSALS WHICH
WILL EVENTUALLY BE PUT TO FEDAYEEN. FRANGIE IS
SOLICITING IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM MANY DIFFERENT
QUARTERS AND IS TESTING ACCEPTABILITY OF VARIOUS IDEAS
ON HIS INTERLOCUTORS AND VIA TRIAL BALLOONS IN PRESS. AT SOME
FUTURE DATE WE UNDERSTAND NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN BUT ONE CANNOT
YET
SAY WHEN OR IN WHAT FORUM OR WHAT SORT OF NEGOTIATING TACTICS WILL
BE USED (E. G. PRESENTATION OF SPECIFIC MINIMAL DEMANDS WITH
FIXED TIME LIMIT AT ONE EXTREME OR MORE TRADITIONAL LEBANESE
APPROACH OF FREE- FORM TALKS WITH NO TIME LIMIT AT OTHER
EXTREME). WE CONTINUE BE ASSURED ANY FINAL PRODUCT WILL
NOT RPT NOT BE WRITTEN TREATY- LIKE DOCUMENT AS WERE CAIRO
ACCORDS BUT PROBABLY A " GENTLEMEN' S AGREEMENT".

3. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, PRESIDENT FRANGIE' S MINIMAL DEMANDS
(AT THIS TIME) INCLUDE VIRTUAL DEMILITARIZATION OF CAMPS IN
AND AROUND BEIRUT (E. G. REMOVAL ALL BUT LIGHT ARMS, NO
REGULARS, ETC.) AND ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF LEBANESE
JURISDICTION OVER ALL PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, INCLUDING
FEDAYEEN. OTHER POINTS WHICH HE APPEARS DETERMINED TO
PRESS ARE LESS CLEAR ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS FULLY AWARE (AS ARE
ARMY OFFICERS) THAT WITHOUT ACTUAL INSPECTION AND CONTROLS
ON CAMPS THERE ALMOST NO LIKELIHOOD OF DISARMAMENT BEING
EFFECTIVE. SPECIFICS ON SUCH ISSUES AS GOL OR ARMY PASSES FOR
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MOVEMENT OF ARMED FEDAYEEN, LOCATION OF CAMPS FOR
FEDAYEEN REGULARS, LIMITATIONS ON CROSS- BORDER OPERATIONS,
ETC., HAVE APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT, ALTHOUGH
(AS SADAQA REPORTS) PRESIDENT FRANGIE IS TAKING SYRIAN
REGULATIONS AS POINT OF DEPARTURE AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DO LIKEWISE.

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 5436

DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

4. SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS SEVEN MEMBERS WHO CAREFULLY CHOSEN FOR REGIONAL, PARTY AND CONFESSIONAL BALANCE BUT ALL OF WHOM (INCLUDING SUNNI MOSLEMS ABDO OUEYDATE AND ZAKI MAZBOUDI) ARE CONSIDERED AT LEAST AMENABLE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE' S APPROACH TO PROBLEM. THEY HAVE COME UP WITH SEVEN- POINT DRAFT PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT KAMAL ASSAD (SHIA LEADER WHO HAS BEEN STRONGLY OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF FRANGIE DURING PAST TWO WEEKS). HIDDEN BEHIND POINTS GLORIFYING PALESTINE CAUSE AS AN ALL- ARAB CAUSE ARE TWO BASIC FRANGIE AXIOMS THAT ALL ARAB STATES SHOULD TREAT PALESTINIANS (AND FEDAYEEN) IN SAME WAY, I. E., GOL SHOULD NOT BE MORE LIMITED IN EXERCISING ITS SOVEREIGNTY OR RESTRAINING DANGEROUS FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES
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THAN EGYPT OR SYRIA OR IRAQ; AND THAT LEBANON SHOULD NOT BE ASKED RISK ISRAELI ATTACK UNLESS ALL ARAB STATES READY TO FIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE ONE POINT SAYS THAT " ENTIRE ARAB NATION MUST SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BATTLE" (WITH ISRAEL) AND THEREFORE " NO SINGLE GROUP ARMY OR STATE HAS RIGHT TO LAUNCH THE BATTLE". ANOTHER POINT CALLS FOR PLACING FEDAYEEN UNDER CONTROL OF ARAB ARMIES. FINAL POINT SAYS THAT FEDAYEEN ARMS SHOULD " BE STOWED AWAY AND HANDED OVER TO FIGHTERS ONLY WHEN ASSIGNED A MISSION", WITHOUT INFRINGING ON SOVEREIGNTY OF HOST COUNTRY AND WITH APPROVAL ITS MILITARY AUTHORITIES. OBJECTIVE OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS TO PLACE NEW GOL- FEDAYEEN RELATIONSHIP IN BROADER CONTEXT OF FEDAYEEN RELATIONS ALL ARAB GOVTS. THIS PARALLELS FRANGIE' S LINE WITH ARAB ENVOYS. REPORT IS CERTAIN TO BE MODIFIED SHOULD IT BE ADOPTED BY ENTIRE ASSEMBLY BUT IT PROVIDES BASIS FOR SUPPORT FOR FRANGIE' S POSITION.

5. JOINT FEDAYEEN- MILITARY COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN SET UP WITH SUB- COMMISSIONS IN FOUR OR FIVE AREAS OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT AND JOINT OBSERVER TEAMS AT MOST SENSITIVE SPOTS IN BEIRUT (E. G., AROUND EDGES OF SABRA- CHATILA CAMP COMPLEX). SO- CALLED " AGREEMENT" BETWEEN ARMY AND FEDAYEEN WHICH ESTABLISHED JOINT COMMISSION (AND ANNOUNCED BY EGYPTIAN ENVOY EL KHOLY ON MAY 10 IN DAMASCUS) DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH ENFORCEMENT OF CEASE- FIRE AND CESSATION OF PROPAGANDA ATTACKS AND HAS NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO ANY SUBSTANTIVE OR POLITICAL MATTERS, INCLUDING CONTROVERSIAL CAIRO ACCORDS. FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND FROM LEBANESE MILITARY, JOINT COMMISSION AND SUB- COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN OF SOME HELP IN KEEPING SITUATION COOL IN BEIRUT AND HELPING DAMP DOWN VIOLATIONS ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, THEY NOT CONSIDERED TO BE MUCH MORE THAN FACE- SAVER AND TEMPORIZING DEVICE, AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE PREVENT EITHER OCCASIONAL FEDAYEEN INFILTRATION AND/ OR ATTACKS IN SYRIAN BORDER AREA OR OCCASIONAL LEBANESE ARMY ATTACKS ON FEDAYEEN IN BORDER AREA.
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